



# **The Coming Plague: Newly Emerging Diseases in a World Out of Balance**

*Laurie Garrett*

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Where's your next disease coming from? From anywhere in the world--from overflowing sewage in Cairo, from a war zone in Rwanda, from an energy-efficient office building in California, from a pig farm in China or North Carolina. "Preparedness demands understanding," writes Pulitzer-winning journalist Laurie Garrett, and in this precursor to *Betrayal of Trust: The Collapse of Global Public Health*, she shows a clear understanding of the patterns lying beneath the new diseases in the headlines (AIDS, Lyme) and the old ones resurgent (tuberculosis, cholera). As the human population explodes, ecologies collapse and simplify, and disease organisms move into the gaps. As globalization continues, diseases can move from one country to another as fast as an airplane can fly.

While the human race battles itself ... the advantage moves to the microbes' court. They are our predators and they will be victorious if we, Homo sapiens, do not learn how to live in a rational global village that affords the microbes few opportunities.

Her picture is not entirely bleak. Epidemics grow when a disease outbreak is amplified--by contaminated water supplies, by shared needles, by recirculated air, by prostitution. And controlling the amplifiers of disease is within our power; it's a matter of money, people, and will. --*Mary Ellen Curtin*

## **The Coming Plague: Newly Emerging Diseases in a World Out of Balance Details**

### **The Coming Plague: Newly Emerging Diseases in a World Out of Balance**

772 pages , Published (first published 1994)

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## **Mario the lone bookwolf says**

A 25 year old, unheard, ignored Cassandra call full of detailed descriptions, this book deals with the question of how the evolution of killer viruses, potential pandemics, plagues, sexually transmitted epidemics,... may continue in the future.

Garrett describes the connection of third world poverty and the spread of diseases, something completely ignored by mainstream media because of the political and economic implications, except an epidemic gets too extreme and gets NIMBY. This, chapter 14, named "Thirdworldization" is a reason for shame for the rich, industrialized countries, but what is not?

The general question is, as so often, not if, but more when, how, where and hopefully not me.

When: There are many ticking time bombs, be it manmade problems with superbugs due to overuse of antibiotics, urbanization with more and more people living close together, the possibility of spillovers in companion with natural destruction, as unexplored areas with new species of primates are exploited, other manmade problems like side effects of genetical engineering, the option for use as biological weapons, climate change and global warming that help germs immigrate to new territories and possibly frozen ones come back to live, terrible public health and prevention politics, no further development of new and preventive vaccines and antibiotics because there is no money to make with this stuff, except if it is the flu,...

How: As an element of warfare or one lumberjack, being bitten by a monkey or getting in contact with body fluids spreading it in his hometown and from there to a larger city to the capital to..... Or a multiresistant superbug out of a secret biowarfare lab or an industrial farming facility, whatever the difference is, the farming might get much more subsidies. There are so many great film plots around this.

Where: The only positive thing. If one doesn't live in a larger city, but a rural area, by simply shooting everyone nearing the village after the breakout, bad things can be prevented and outposts have a long tradition of hating anything foreign, so that should work well. Except when there is a longer state of emergency, break down of infrastructure and food supply, leather rockers cannibalizing around, virus apocalypse, yada yada yada.

The author is a biologist with specializations in bacteriology and immunology who switched to journalism and the chapters read like great storylines for hard biopunk Sci-Fi stories. The underrepresented biopunk genre deserves more authors who are biologists, geneticists, bioengineers,... So please, take a creative writing course and create the next big thing, because the Sci-Fi hall of fame is filled with just mostly astrophysicists, chemists, physicists and similar, mainly not bio-focused, authors.

All of the points the author mentioned a long time ago, the suggestions she made on how to be able to deal with the problems have been commendably solved by a wise and united world government and public-private partnerships with international institutions that... Just joking, we are doomed (when living in large cities)! Doooomed. (I love to say that.) Now, it's really enough. Ok, once again: „Move along people, nothing to see here. The government is competent and capable to deal with the situation.“

One more: They build bioweapons by combining elements of something extremely deadly like smallpox or ebola with the flu and anything that can spread by air and is extremely contagious. Something like a droplet infection that spread genetically enhanced HIV, multiresistant tuberculosis, hepatitis C,... this way might be no effective immediate use bioweapon, but something for the long-term destruction of a country, especially if the own population is immune and vaccinated against it.

A wiki walk can be as refreshing to the mind as a walk through nature in this completely overrated real life outside books:

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pandemic>  
<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Zoonosis>  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Viral\\_h...](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Viral_h...)

I read it inspired, or let's say terrified, yes, that sounds much better, by the current coronavirus outbreak.  
<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2019%E2...>

CNN live updates  
<https://edition.cnn.com/asia/live-new...>

John Hopkins CSSE world map  
<https://gisanddata.maps.arcgis.com/ap...>

Youtube statistics  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qgylp...>

### **Gregory S. says**

A couple weeks after I read this wonderful book (years ago) I was walking across the Brooklyn Bridge and saw a woman that looked just like the jacket photo of Laurie Garrett. I stopped and asked "Are you Laurie Garrett?" And, of course, she was. Then I said something impossibly stupid--like "You are to disease what the Beatles are to music." That wasn't what I actually said, but it was something equally idiotic and I'm sure I embarrassed the poor woman.

I attended a reading she gave a few years later when she was releasing a book on the public health system, and afterwards I wanted to get her to sign my copy--but I was afraid she might remember me. And I was also afraid she wouldn't. So I just left when the lecture was over.

None of this speaks to this book at all, but there it is.

### **Lori says**

She nailed it in 1994. Maybe won't be COVID-19 but one of them. Terrific, informative, well-written, I still remember it but not surprised it's a bestseller again.

I was seeing a guy getting his Ph.D. at Harvard School of Public Health and leaving him even more sleep-deprived than your average Sci.D. getting a Ph.D. in public health by hitting him on the arm to wake him up multiple times a night as questions occurred to me. Maybe if I'd written them down we'd still be together. (Kidding!)

(Focus, Lori. You don't like reviews or reviewers who make the books about them -- cough cough [not a coronavirus cough...or is it?] -- Lolita.

Can someone please muzzle the orange lummoX and Igor and let Dr. Fauci of our NIH run this? Tough choice: one's daddy paid to get him into school, then paid the school to take his grades and lock them up! -- and the other has been a worldwide leader in efforts to study and contain infectious diseases, especially AIDS and Ebola.

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**From reader reviews:**

**Michael Carr:**

With other case, little folks like to read book The Coming Plague: Newly Emerging Diseases in a World Out of Balance. You can choose the best book if you'd prefer reading a book. So long as we know about how is important any book The Coming Plague: Newly Emerging Diseases in a World Out of Balance. You can add knowledge and of course you can around the world by the book. Absolutely right, due to the fact from book you can know everything! From your country until foreign or abroad you will be known. About simple factor until wonderful thing it is possible to know that. In this era, we can easily open a book or even searching by internet system. It is called e-book. You need to use it when you feel bored to go to the library. Let's learn.

**Otis Kozlowski:**

Information is provisions for individuals to get better life, information today can get by anyone from everywhere. The information can be a information or any news even a problem. What people must be consider while those information which is in the former life are hard to be find than now could be taking seriously which one would work to believe or which one often the resource are convinced. If you get the unstable resource then you obtain it as your main information you will have huge disadvantage for you. All those possibilities will not happen throughout you if you take The Coming Plague: Newly Emerging Diseases in a World Out of Balance as your daily resource information.

**Nicolas Dandrea:**

Playing with family within a park, coming to see the sea world or hanging out with good friends is thing that usually you have done when you have spare time, then why you don't try thing that really opposite from that. One activity that make you not experiencing tired but still relaxing, trilling like on roller coaster you have been ride on and with addition associated with. Even you love The Coming Plague: Newly Emerging Diseases in a World Out of Balance, you can enjoy both. It is great combination right, you still desire to miss it? What kind of hang-out type is it? Oh seriously its mind hangout fellas. What? Still don't obtain it, oh come on its identified as reading friends.

**Robert Howard:**

As we know that book is significant thing to add our knowledge for everything. By a publication we can know everything we really wish for. A book is a list of written, printed, illustrated or perhaps blank sheet. Every year had been exactly added. This book The Coming Plague: Newly Emerging Diseases in a World Out of Balance was filled in relation to science. Spend your extra time to add your knowledge about your scientific disciplines competence. Some people has diverse feel when they reading the book. If you know how big benefit of a book, you can truly feel enjoy to read a reserve. In the modern era like at this point, many ways to get book which you wanted.

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